Northwest Vintage Radio Society
2515 NE 37th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212

PORTLAND, OR 972
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1986

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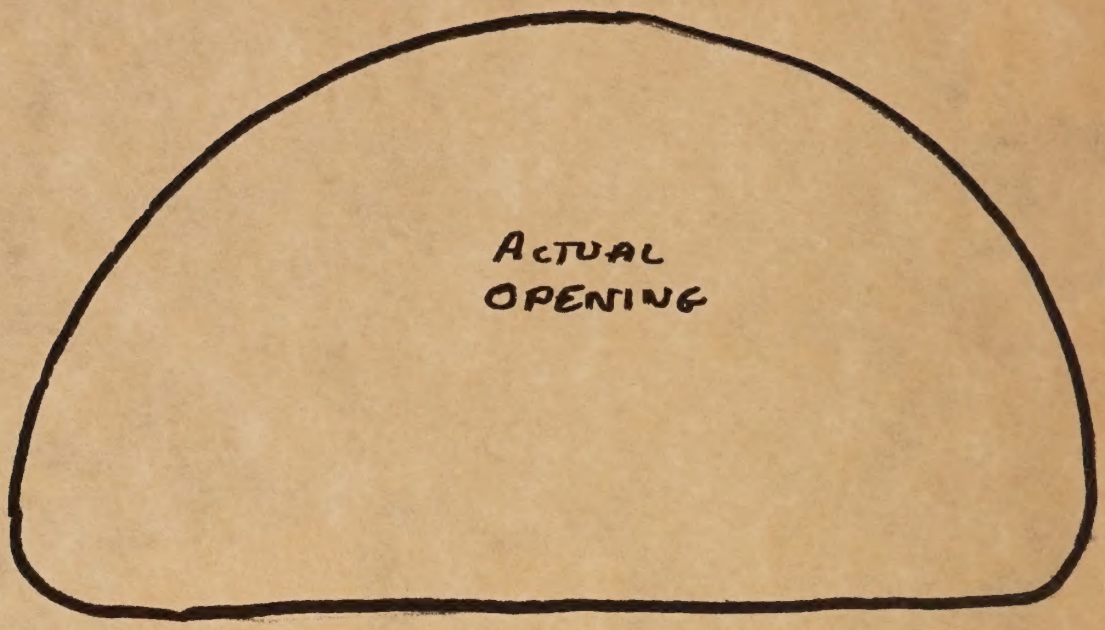
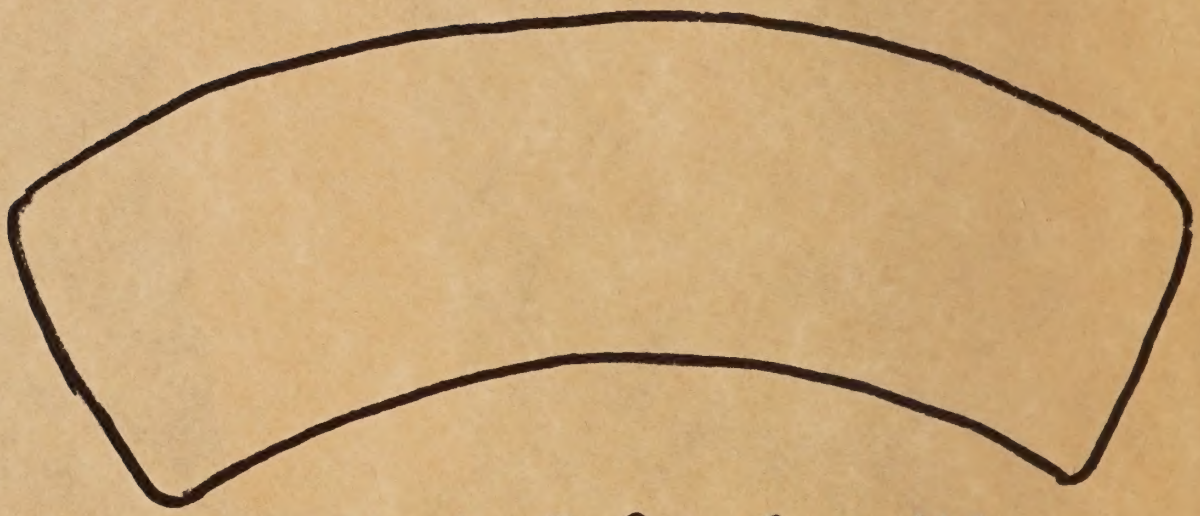
5704 - 11TH AVE. NW
SEATTLE WA 98107



OPENING FOR AK-627 ROUNDTOP



Cabinet Cut out for APEX-U.S.
CATHEDRAL Mod. 8A

IF You have an ESCUTCHEON To F.T
EITHER of These See SWAP SHOP P.12.

NORTHWEST
VINTAGE RADIO
SOCIETY

CALL LETTER

Dec. 1986 Vol.12 No.12

TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Happy Birthday KEX

60 years young

see the whole story on page 8

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The **CALL LETTER**, is published monthly, as the only official publication of the **Northwest Vintage Radio Society** which is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month (July and August omitted) at the Buena Vista Clubhouse in Oregon City.

President---------- Bill DeVey 635-6746
Vice President--- Jerry Talbott 649-6717
Treasurer---------- Ed Charman 654-7387
Recording Secretary- Dan Howard 761-7799
Corresponding Secretary ----------
Dick Karman 288-1285
Librarian--------- Chuck Kibler 678-5066

DATE : December 13th, 1986
TIME : 11:00
PLACE : Buena Vista Clubhouse
ADDRESS : 16th & Jackson streets
Oregon City, Oregon

The December meeting in 1974 was the first meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. There are a few of our current members who remember that first meeting. Don Iverson, Al Shadduck, Bill Baker, and Dick Howard were there and could probably tell us what happened.

Part of the reminiscing will be done by our speaker Don Iverson telling about some of his travels and some of the last 12 years. We will be celebrating with an anniversary cake & refreshments.

December time is also Christmas time. There will be a gift exchange. Bring a small gift (around $3) and receive a similar gift. Take time to wrap up some test gear leads, a set of matching AK knobs, or maybe a new "old stock" cloth wound power cord.

The business for the day will be the annual election of society officers. We have a full ballot (see page 15). This is the most complete slate we have had in years. Show your support and vote.

Past presidents of the Society:

Harley Perkins	'75	Don Iverson	'81
Bob Bilbie	'76	Bill DeVey	'82
Tom James	'77 &'78	Jerry Talbott	'83 & 84
Jim Mason	'79	Dick Karman	'85
Craig Hoaglin	'80	Bill DeVey	'86

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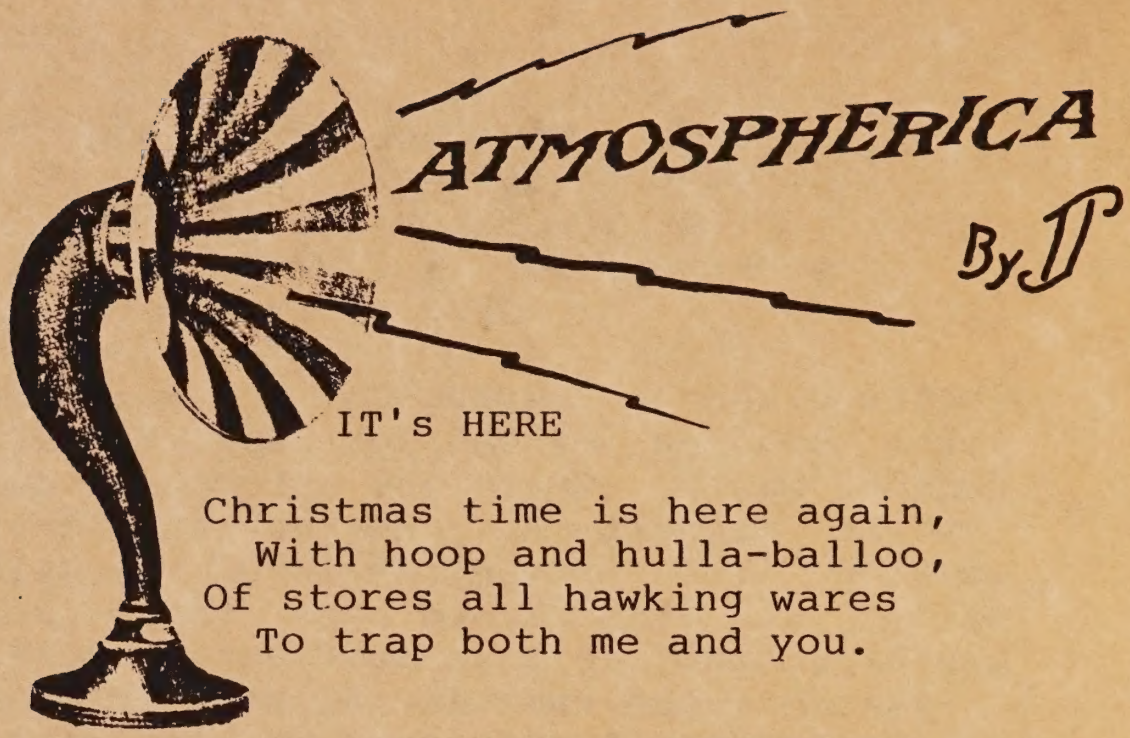

IT's HERE

Christmas time is here again,
With hoop and hulla-balloo,
Of stores all hawking wares
To trap both me and you.

Maybe we can rise above
the commercial hue and cry,
And concentrate on the birthday past,
Instead of BUY and BUY.

Let's stress the goodwill theme
And mark the Peace of Man ---
As we stumble through the year
Conforming to HIS plan.

A toast to happy holidays
Around the vintage board!
And may our vintage portions
Overflow the drinking gourd!

From the Tom James Collection
Originally from Nov.25th, 1976

RETROSPECT

Your editor was able to attend the Fall Swap Meet last month. The selection was great and attendance was almost perfect. The tables were occupied and floor space was all that was available by 10:00. Radios dominated the sales arena but parts and tubes were available also. At one point there were over 40 people in the clubhouse.

The business meeting was succinct. The Ballot was rounded out and filled in to perfection. Guests received complimentary CALL LETTERS & new memberships resulted.

As a combination of new members, table fees, and those who sold enough to pay dues for the coming year,the treasurer did a land office business. It's nice to see the society in the black.

R5-D3 ELECTRONIC SURPLUS

RADIO----------TELEPHONE

TEST EQUIPMENT

TUBES----------COMPONENTS

1930'S THRU 1980'S

6111A SE 82nd Ave Sat. - Tue. 10 till 6

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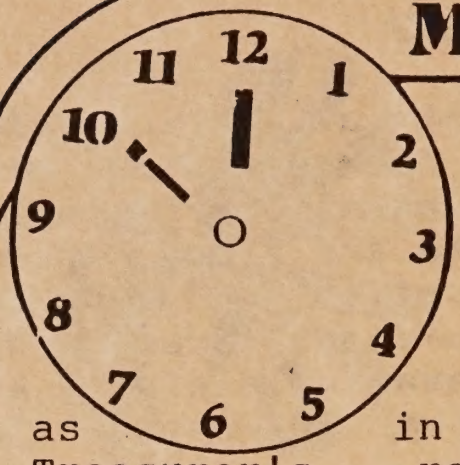
Meeting Minutes



The November 8th, meeting was called to order by Pres.Bill DeVey at 11 am. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as in the CALL LETTER. The Treasurer's report was given and accepted. the current balance is $637.05.

Old Business:

Changes in the nominations for officers were as follows: Sonny Clutter withdrew from the presidential slate; Bob Teague declined nomination for treasurer while accepting nomination for corresponding secretary.

There were no volunteers for Editor of the CALL LETTER.

New Business:

Don Iverson has volunteered to speak at the December meting of the Society. His topic will be his recent trip back east.

Leads and Needs:

Evelyn Thompkins provided a list of radio related books available through a New York dealer [address available in swap shop].

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 followed by the continuation of a very successful fall swap meet.

Dan Howard,
Corresponding
Secretary

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REMEMBERING
Paul Frees
1900-1986

Paul got his start in radio in a 1932 impersonation contest on the home town station. He was once billed as America's most versatile actor while being the star and only actor on "The Player" a radio program which could be heard in 1948 and 49. But early radio may better remember him as the announcer on one of the great anthology series, "ESCAPE". He was active in the escape cast from 1947 until it's last show in 1954. Frees was one of the flunkies around Blair medical center on DOCTOR KILDARE, heard on DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, a supporting actor on A MAN NAMED JORDON and had the title role in the GREEN LAMA.

Paul made a smooth transition to TV. Producers would call on him when they needed a voice, & wanted quality. Walt Disney called upon him to be Ludwig Von Drake and Pillsbury got him to be the Doughboy. Mr. Frees played over a million different voices in his 54 year career.

Mr. Frees appeal was universal. For years he was Boris Badenov on the Rocky and Bullwinkle show, & you may remember the little people on the "Jolly Green Giant" commercials.

If you don't recognize these, you may remember the cultured voice of the announcer for Mobile Oil and Foremost Dairies and the voice of the TV tycoon on the "The Millionaire".

Though we won't miss the seldom-seen white mustache or shocks of unkempt white hair, we will remember Paul Frees when we hear the voice of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Frosty the Snowman. Death came on November 3rd, 1986.

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Sixty Years with **KEX**

An AM Radio station that has become as much a part of Portland as the Steel Bridge, the Willamette River,or the perpetual rain, is turning 60 this year.

On Christmas eve of 1926 authority to operate was granted and **KEX** began broadcasting from studios in the Terminal Sales Building. Government regulations were still being established & licenses would not be issued until July 1927. At this time **KEX** was assigned 670 on the AM band, with 2500 Watts of power.

Finances and equipment malfunction, as well as two frequency changes nearly foretold the downfall of the station in 1927. The holding company, Western Broadcasting Company, was owned by Seattle's Northwest Radio Supply Company which also owned Seattle's KJR. Financial difficulties were overcome for a short while when Adolph Linden of the Puget Sound Savings Bank pumped money into the parent organization. Linden started the American Broadcasting Company in early 1929 and fed six half hour programs per week from KJR to **KEX** and five other west coast affiliates. There was more financial troubles and ABC was abandoned. By December 1929 **KEX** had joined the NBC-blue Network chain and Western Broadcasting became a subsidiary of NBC. In 1931 the pacific area stations became the Gold network and later went back to the blue .

In 1933 the Oregonian Publishing Company desired a sister station to KGW in Portland, so they leased **KEX** from Western and soon after purchased it. The assigned frequency was 1180. After more frequency changes, **KEX** finally (in 1941) became established at 1190 (where it remains to this day). After a fire did

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substantial damage, the The terminal sales building studios were rebuilt and reequipped. Shortly thereafter the FCC's duo-poly ruling forced the Oregonian to sell **KEX**. Westinghouse bought the Blue-affiliated station for$400,000. In 1945, less than a year later, the Blue network became ABC.

The forties continued to be growing years. The chief engineer was Harold Singleton,"traffic" was handled by Ralph Greer, Barney Keep started his morning show & Abe Bercovitz was music director. With a fixed frequency, a new owner, and a solid network, maximum 50,000 wattage came in 1947. **KEX**-FM at 92.3 Megacycles went on the air in 1948. The FM station had a classical format and could only be called non-commercial. AM air sales supported the FM counterpart. In the Fifties **KEX** dropped their ABC affiliation (1956) and moved the studios to a 2 story building at 2130 SW 5th Ave (1959).

Gene Autry's Golden West Broadcasters bought **KEX** in 1962 for $900,000 and by 1964 **KEX** was an independent middle-of-the-road music and news station. Late night broadcasting still included many old radio shows. In that same year **KEX**-FM was donated to the State of Oregon and became KOAP, Portland's PBS affiliate on the FM band. Chief engineer was Norm Herman.

In 1973 **KEX** took up an affiliation with ABC for the third time. Also in the seventies they began AM stereo broadcasting, and once again picked up an FM sister station KQFM in 1977. The seventies saw national recognition for award winning news and entertainment under program director Eric Norberg and news director Jim Howe. It was during these years that old time radio programs were only heard in concentrated

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"festivals" 4 times a year.

In November of 1978 the studios were moved to "Golden West Broadcast Center", 4949 SW Macadam Ave., only months before Barney Keep retired from over 30 years on **KEX**. Chief engineer was Paul Matthew.

The 80's brought change again. Both the AM and FM were sold to Taft Broadcasting for $8,000,000. The FM side is now known as KKRZ and it's format is "contemporary hit radio". KEX has for some time been known as Radio for Grown Ups with an official format of Adult Contemporary. As much Portland as the west hills, and the Columbia gorge, we look forward to **KEX** being around another 60 years. Happy Birthday **KEX**.

TRADIO

Puget Sound Antique Radio Association

Wanted:

Knob (small with pointer) for Zenith Super VII (page 116 in Vintage Radio) JIM BARROWS, 5121 41ST AVE SE, BOTHELL, WA 98012 , 206-337-4880

Radiola 25, complete or in part; Chassis for radiola 41 with a good pot metal; Other 1920's RCA sets. JOHN SCHNEIDER, 1718 NE 98TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98115, 206-527-3198.

Grunow 801A complete or cabinet only; 1956 Washington State license tabs. DARRELL FORSBERG,12209 1ST AVE. NW, SEATTLE, WA 98177, 206-363-0754

Philco Model 80B cathedral cabinet. COLIN HALLGREN, 2205 OAKES, EVERETT, WA 98201 ,206-252-3892

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Radiola IV, Crosley XL, Sky Chief radios, David Grimes radios, colored plastic, colored leather, mirrored glass, art deco and other unusual radios, and pre-1950's TV sets, and or old radio shows from tapes. KEN KORHONEN, 4022 41ST AVE SW SEATTLE, WA 98116, 206-932-9363

FOR SALE:

Radiola 26, missing speaker, grill, loop, $75 JOHN SCHNEIDER, 1718 NE 98TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98115, 206-527-3198.

1949 Bendix model 2020U TV, $50 Jerry Brannon 206-854-4234

Atwater Kent model 55 console, good condition, $125, JERRY CAPPOEN, 8220 71ST ST. CT. NW. GIG HARBOR, WA 98335 206-858-7235.

Mid-30s Sparton Console, fair cond., only $7.00 plus shipping. WALT KIEFNER 6233 51ST NE SEATTLE , WA 98115 206-524-1388.

Crosley Tritdyn 3R3 good condition, $75; Radiola 26 (works), $175; Western Electric 7A amplifier, $65; Radiola III early model w/ good audio transformer, $70. JIM BARROWS, 5121 41ST AVE SE, BOTHELL, WA 98012 , 206-337-4880

Hallicrafters S9 (needs some parts), S22R, S27, S40, S38A, SX43, SX71,S77A, S95, SX100, SX101, Super Defiant, S107, SX111, SX117, will sell individually or as a colllection. Call me on the BC Public Service Net on 3729 kHz at 0200Z ~1800 PST~ VE7FK or phone 604-869-2076 or write Joe Antoine, RR2, Hope, British Columbia VOX1LO.

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SWAP SHOP

Unclassified Ads from NVRS

WANTED:

National LM 309K or Motorola MLM 309K Voltage Regulator (IC) Tubes 6J5G, 3LF4, 21KA6, 6U5, 35W4, 1U5. **LARRY CALLAHAN, 2725 NE PILKINGTON, CORVALLIS, OR 97330.**

Cabinet for Philco Model 20 or 20B (or a cabinet for either with good front panel. Escutcheon for APEX-US cathedral mod.8A (round top) and for A.K. round top model 627. (Actual size of both openings marked on inside of mailing sheet.) **BOB TEAGUE 7522 SE ROOTS RD MILWAUKIE , OR 97222**

Early battery sets and horn speakers **DEL HAMBLY 8910 NW LOVEJOY PORTLAND , OR 97229**

RCA mod 10X__ reciever w/ short wave. **ROBERT BECKER, BOX 355 KENT , WA 98032**

Any McMurdo Silver Electric set with or without cabinet; Masterpiece I, II, III, IV, V, VI, 14-15, 15-17; any literature; any McMurdo Silver Times or Forum, Magazines, also wanted: 1935 to 1939 Zenith consoles. We will pick up in most any part of U.S. and Canada. **FRANK and MARY RASADA, 12507 PINEGROVE LANE, CERRITOS, CA 90701, days 714-951-9591, eves 213-926-6722 (leave message).**

Grisby-Grunow Model 9P6 power supply balast (used with model 90 reciever). **WALLY KELLY 6910 VERDE VISTA PLACE KLAMATH FALLS , OR 97603**

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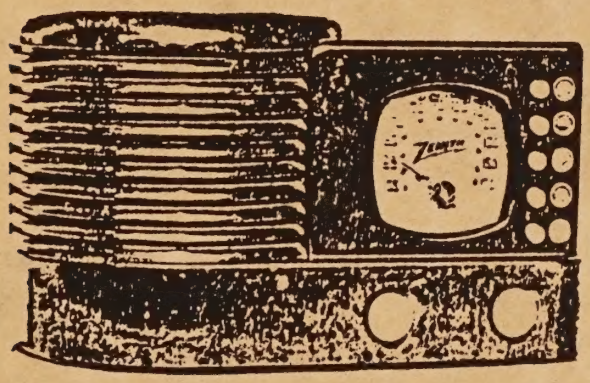
Beginning collector looking for cathedral and/or tombstone radios, and books & literature. Kim 415-865-6917

1935-1939 Wooden Philco table radios, preferably those of the round dial "transitone" series; Zenith Model 5R312 in good condition (see photo)
JAY MALKIN 4505 SW 142ND ST #143
BEAVERTON , OR 97005 days 503-226-7391



Zenith, model 5R312, 1938.

FOR SALE:

Airline, Radiola, Gillfillan tables models $6.00 each, and Silvertone, Essex, Packard Bell, phono radios $10.00 each
Call Stan 503-283-9400

Interested in vintage radio books and manuals? -- send a self addressed stamped envelope to New Radio Pioneers, 6270 Clinton Street, Elma, New york, 14059. ask for the most recent list (6 to 12 pages).

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AC • CES • SION /ik-'sesh-en, ak-/

1. acquisition of additional property
2. to record in order of acquisition

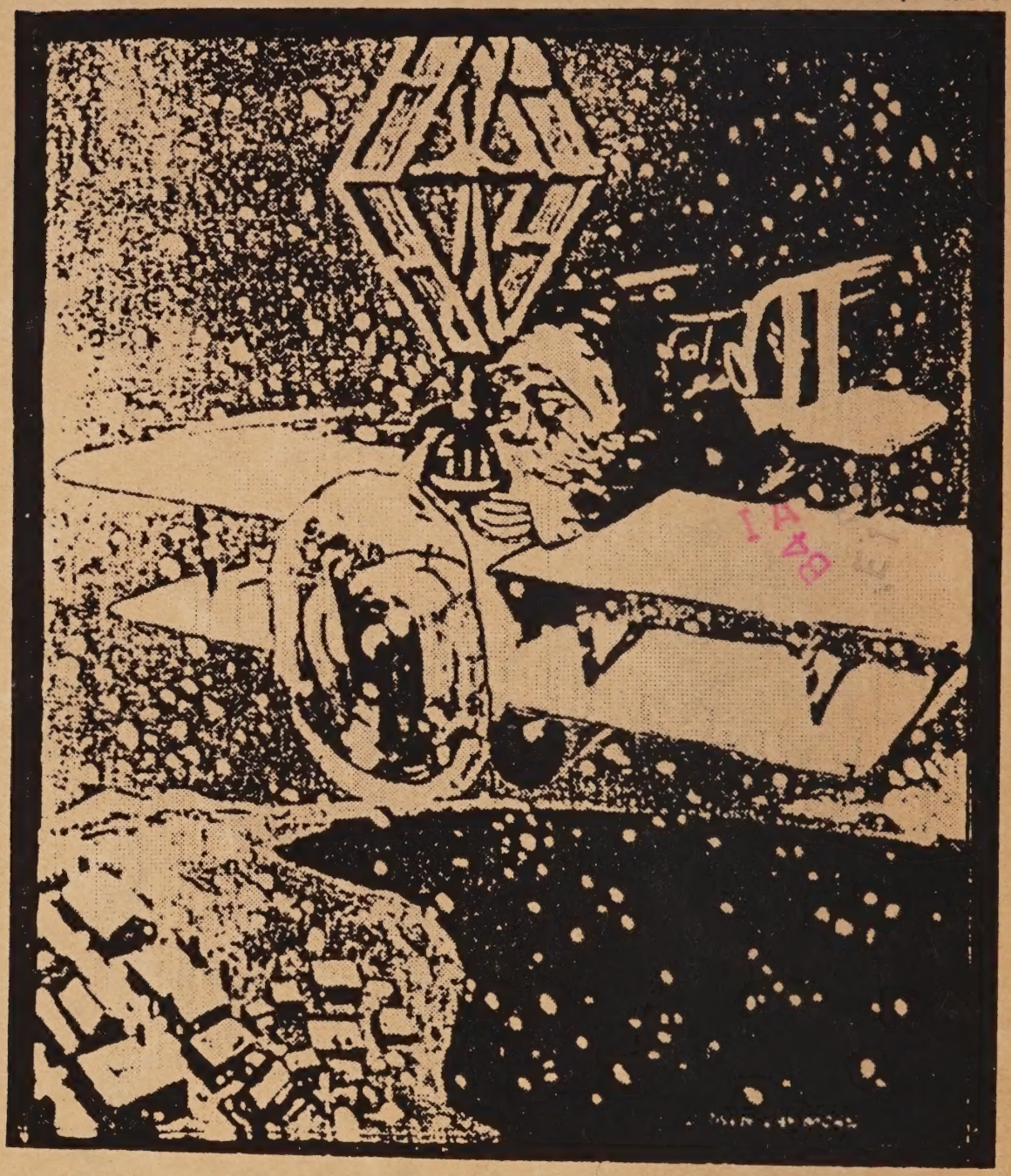
Ray Nelson:
Grebe MU-1 Synchrophase
SAAL horn speaker w/13" bakelite Bell

Jim Mason:
Radiola RS -very fine condition-

Jerry Talbott:
Western Electric Microphone circa 1922
1937 Packard Bell Mod. 5 "Kampak"
1954 Stromberg-Carlson 15" CT-V
a Stromberg Carlson unique design

The Call Letter Staff wishes to express it's appreciation to the membership of the Northwest Vintage Radio society for making this publication possible.

Merry Christmas
Dick

DECEMBER, 1924 25 CENTS

RADIO